

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FTC-01 JUSE-00 SP-02 USIA-06
AID-05 NSC-05 EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01
CEA-01 L-03 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 H-01 /076 W
-----081248Z 083831 /40

R 071250Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2573
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, QA, US
SUBJECT: ISRAELI BOYCOTT-FIVE US COMPANIES AND THEIR PROBLEMS IN
QATAR; REAFFIRMATION OF ACCEPTABILITY OF POSITIVE
CERTIFICATION OF ORIGIN

REF: DOHA 0456

1. STORY APPEARED IN QATAR NEWS AGENCY (QNA) DAILY ENGLISH
LANGUAGE BULLETIN MAY 2, STATING THAT "AMERICAN CANNING
COMPANY" HAD BEEN BLACKLISTED AND THAT FOUR OTHER US FIRMS
WOULD BE "EXPOSED TO BOYCOTT MEASURES IF THEY DID NOT
PRESENT CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN." IN CHECKING STORY WITH
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMY, EMBASSY HAS DETERMINED
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THAT STORY WAS INCORRECT IN TWO RESPECTS. FIRSTLY, THE
BANNED COMPANY IS AMERICAN CAN COMPANY RATHER THAN
AMERICAN CANNING COMPANY. AMERICAN CAN COMPANY HAS BEEN
BANNED BY THE CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE AND ACCORDING TO
MINISTRY SOURCE, DOHA OFFICE "ONLY CARRIED OUT THE DECISION
OF THE CONFERENCE."

2. SECONDLY, THE OTHER FOUR COMPANIES, ACCORDING TO MINISTRY SOURCE, ARE NOT BEING THREATENED WITH BOYCOTT, RATHER THE COMPANIES HAVE NOTIFIED THEIR AGENTS IN DOHA THAT THEY CANNOT COMPLY WITH BOYCOTT OFFICE REQUIREMENTS. MINISTRY SOURCE SAID THAT THIS IS A MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF THE COMPANIES. ACCORDING TO SOURCE THE FOUR COMPANIES- OUTBOARD MARINE COMPANY (BOATS), ZERO MANUFACTURING COMPANY (ALUMINUM LUGGAGE), B. ROSENBERG AND SONS (SHOES), AND DUNHAM BUSH COMPANY (ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES)-HAVE ALL NOTIFIED THEIR AGENTS THAT THEY COULD NOT TRADE WITH QATAR BECAUSE OF QATARI REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATE STATING THAT GOODS WERE NOT OF ISRAELI ORIGIN. ALL FOUR COMPANIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMY THAT THIS CERTIFICATE HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN REQUIRED FOR TRADE WITH QATAR SINCE 1969. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT BOYCOTT OFFICE IS PART OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMY IN QATAR. AT THE SAME TIME AS NOTIFICATIONS WERE SENT FROM MINISTRY, THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SENT LETTERS TO THE FOUR COMPANIES INFORMING THEM OF QATARI CONTINUED INTEREST IN TRADING WITH THEM AND EXPLAINING THE REQUIREMENT FOR POSITIVE CERTIFICATION. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LETTERS WERE SENT TO AVOID NECESSITY OF US COMPANIES CORRESPONDING WITH BOYCOTT OFFICE. CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN COMPANIES ANDX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMY IS CONTINUING. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY SOURCE, PROBLEM APPEARS TO BE HEADED TOWARD AMICABLE SOLUTION.

3. QNA ARTICLE WAS BASED ON DIRECTOR OF ISRAELI BOYCOTT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICE, KHALIL SHAMMAS, STATEMENT IN INTERVIEW WITH QNA. ARTICLE QUOTED SHAMMAS AS SAYING THAT NEXT GENERAL CONFERENCE OF BOYCOTT OFFICE WILL DECIDE ON "STRICT BOYCOTT MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO AMERICAN MEASURES" TO COUNTER AMERICAN ANTI-BOYCOTT MOVES AND THAT ARAB COUNTRIES ARE "STRICTLY COMMITTED TO SYSTEM OF CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN." MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMY SOURCE STATED THAT SHAMMAS IS UNHAPPY WITH TEXT OF ARTICLE IN WHICH HE WAS QUOTED AND PARTICULARLY WITH THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION WHICH MADE HIS STATEMENTS SEEM TOUGHER THAN THEY WERE INTENDED TO BE. IN CHECKING ORIGINAL ARABIC, EMBASSY HAS BEEN ABLE TO FIND NO LITERAL TRANSLATION PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, ALTERNATE TRANSLATION COULD HAVE BEEN LESS SEVERE THAN TRANSLATION AS WRITTEN IN QNA ENGLISH LANGUAGE BULLETIN. MINISTRY SOURCE MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN TRYING TO SOFTEN IMPACT FOR EMBOFF WHO DISCUSSED ARTICLE WITH HIM.

4. COMMENT: MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMY AND BOYCOTT OFFICE, WHICH IS PART OF THAT MINISTRY, ARE APPARENTLY TRYING

TO ELIMINATE PROBLEMS BETWEEN US COMPANIES AND QATARI
COMPANIES. IN THE CASE OF THE FOUR AMERICAN COMPANIES,
NOTED IN PARAGRAPH 2, THEY PERCEIVE A PROBLEM WHICH THE
BOYCOTT OFFICE AND THE MINISTRY SAY DOES NOT EXIST.
MINISTRY IS MAKING EFFORT TO KEEP TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN
THESE AMERICAN COMPANIES AND QATAR IN OPERATION.
LATEST REAFFIRMATION OF ACCEPTABILITY OF POSITIVE CERTIFICATION
ANOTHER INDICATION OF GOQ DESIRE TO DEAL PRAGMATICALLY WITH
BOYCOTT PROBLEMS AND MAINTAIN TRADE LINKS WITH U.S. FIRMS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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